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disposition of the monastery lands. In fact, some matter concerning this last point is the most distinctly original contribution of the book toward our knowledge of the Reformation period. Largely as an inference from the studies of Alexander Savine, a Russian student at work in England, whose results are summarized in an appendix to this volume, it has been found that the confiscated monastery lands were less completely squandered than has been generally supposed.

Altogether it may be said that in this volume we have an adequate, impartial, and highly readable account of the period it covers. Our chief criticism of the work is rather negative than positive. We miss a deep perception of causes and effects, insight into a larger significance than appears on the surface, recognition of the part the unnamed populace played, as well as the named chief actors, a knowledge on the part of the writer, and a clarification for the sake of the reader, of the larger institutions of the time. But such a study of the history of the time was evidently not in the mind of the author, and we may well acknowledge the excellence and value of the history he has given us as he conceived it.

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**Latané, J. H.** *America as a World Power.* Pp. xvi, 350. Price, \$2.00. New York: Harper Brothers, 1907.

The extent to which political activities in the United States have become world activities is hardly to be appreciated until their history is brought together in such a volume as this. Starting with Cuban intervention and ending with the second Hague Conference, the author presents a brilliant summary of the last decade of our foreign policy.

The task before an historian who undertakes to discuss events almost contemporary is a difficult one. The voluminous character of the material, the numerous branches of national policy, and the difficulty of putting the different factors in their proper perspective call for an ability for synthesis possessed by but few. Professor Latané has carried out the work with skill. That some of the pages savor of the magazine and that occasional overlappings occur is to be expected and is perhaps unavoidable.

The first third of the book deals with the Spanish War and its immediate results. Especially well done are the discussions of the peace negotiations, the vacillation of the administration as to the policy to be followed in the Philippines and the relations with the insurgents previous to the conclusion of the treaty. The second third takes up the consequences of the war as shown in our relations with Cuba, the constitutional questions raised by the dependencies and our new position in the Orient. The last third takes as its chief subjects the international questions involved in the Alaskan boundary dispute, the Panama Canal, the Hague Conference and the present status of the Monroe Doctrine. The latter factor, "the cardinal principle of American foreign policy," runs at the back of almost all of the discussions. The author maintains that the United States is guilty of no

inconstancy to the Monroe Doctrine in its extra-American actions. As originally enunciated, the Doctrine was intended to contrast European and American conditions, therefore the entry into Asian politics is a departure into a region not originally considered, and hence one from which we did not, even by implication, exclude ourselves. "The coast of Asia has a set of primary interests of its own." Our actions in European affairs are still accompanied by a determination not to interfere with the internal policies of the nations of that continent. Nevertheless, the author holds the Spanish War was decidedly "a parting of the ways," an event the importance of which not only in international affairs but in our own constitutional history, we can yet but dimly estimate.

The chapters on foreign policy are supplemented by brief discussions of the elections of 1900 and 1904, and of present economic tendencies. A short concluding chapter presents the chief sources of material.

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**Lindsay, Thomas M.** *A History of the Reformation.* Two volumes. Pp. xxxiii, 1159. Price, \$2.50. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1907.

Dr. Lindsay has in these two volumes given us the best history of the Reformation to be found in English. The product of many years of study, it is written with a grasp of the subject, a vigor of movement, and a clearness of style that is not often found in such works. In fact, it is unusually readable. There is much generalization, but it is made with a virility that holds the attention, while there is everywhere the personal interest whether it be of portraiture or in dramatic portrayal of events. The sketches of "Bloody Mary" (II, 333), of von Hutton (I, 78), and of Erasmus (I, 177), of Charles V and Luther at the Diet of Worms, and of Charles V and the protesting princes at the Diet of Worms are not easily forgotten.

Without giving the space to environment that Ranke, Jannsson and Bezold have, the first 188 pages are devoted to the setting of the movement. The papacy, with its temporal and spiritual claims, is first considered, and then the political situation. Here stress is laid upon the fact that "During the period of the Reformation a small portion of the world belonged to Christendom, and of that only a part was affected either really or nominally by the movement. The Christians belonging to the Greek Church were entirely outside its influence. . . . It was not until the heroic defence of Vienna, in 1529, that the victorious advance of the Moslems was stayed." The chapter on social conditions is especially valuable for the concrete picture of the fifteenth and early sixteenth century German town on the one hand and of the daily life of the peasant on the other, as well as the great discontent and restlessness resulting from class distinctions. The chapters on the Renaissance and Humanism emphasize that "What was once confined to a favored few became common property." "The coming revolution in religion was already proclaiming that all human life, even the most commonplace, could be sacred; and contemporary art discovered the picturesque